

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6338
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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 5071

FOR ARA/MGT/FM:RMORROW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFCP, BEXP, AR
SUBJECT: FY-78 ALLOTMENT ADJUSTMENT # 7, ITEM #65

REF: TELCON 6/29/78 MAGUIRE/MORROW, BUENOS AIRES 4289

1. TRADE CENTER ITEM # 64 WE HOPE FOLLOWING WILL CLARIFY
QUESTIONS RAISED AND GIVE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS LONG
DRAWN OUT PROBLEM.

2. FROM MAY 1972 UNTIL NOVEMBER 1974 THE U.S. TRADE
CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES HELD OVER 12 EXHIBITIONS AND
49 BETWEEN SHOW PROMOTIONS (BSP'S) IN WHICH 206 FIRMS
EXHIBITED PRODUCTS. IN ALL THESE CASES, THE SHOWS
ENTAILED TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF EQUIPMENT FROM THE
U.S. UNDER EMBASSY BOND. ALL SHIPMENTS WERE CONSIGNED
TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE GOODS HAD TO BE EITHER
RE-EXPORTED OR "NATIONALIZED" WITHIN 180 DAYS, ALTHOUGH,
A 180 DAY EXTENSION OF THIS TIME LIMIT, BRINGING THE
TOTAL PERIOD TO 1 YEAR, WAS OBTAINABLE. IN THE CASE
OF MANY NATIONALIZATION REQUESTS, THE INDUSTRIAL
RECESSION AND INSTABILITY THAT BEGAN IN ARGENTINA IN
1975 CAUSED SOME LOCAL FIRMS, WHICH HAD AGREED TO
PURCHASE THIS EQUIPMENT, TO DESIST FROM DOING SO.
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THIS MEANT, IN PRACTICE, THAT ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY
HAD REQUESTED "NATIONALIZATION" BY THE CUSTOMS
AUTHORITIES, THESE NEVER TOOK PLACE. THE GOODS SO
AFFECTED SHOULD THEN HAVE BEEN RE-EXPORTED, BUT THE
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US OWNERS OF THE EQUIPMENT,
POSSIBLY UNDER PRESSURE BY THEIR U.S. CLIENTS - DID
NOT INFORM US, AND INSTEAD TRIED TO SELL THE EQUIPMENT

TO OTHER ARGENTINE FIRMS. DURING 1975 AND 1976 WE PROCESSED A NUMBER OF TARDY "NATIONALIZATIONS", AND, ALTHOUGH THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION PERIODS HAD BEEN EXCEEDED, THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION COOPERATED. WE STILL HAVE IN OUR RECORDS 22 SUCH CASES PENDING. ALL LOCAL FIRMS CONCERNED HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY ASKED TO REGULARIZE THE STATUS OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THEIR POSSESSION.

3. THE PIECES OF EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION WERE SHIPPED BY THE FOLLOWING U.S. COMPANIES: VARIAN (2), THE PERKEIN ELINER, INC., TEXTRONICS, SPECIAL INSTRUM. LAB. INC.(SPINLAB), ERGENTHALER, COMPUGRAPHIC, PICKER, RANSBURG AND GACO, ADDRESSOGRAPH-MULTIGRAPH (2), INTERNATIONAL VIDEO CORP., HYPRON, INC., APECO, RONTEx, CRAFTMEN MACHINERY CO., INSTRUMENTATION LABORATORY, HEDMAN, LINOTYPE & MACHINING CO., ORION (2), MICROLINE.

4. WE MUST RESOLVE THESE CASES WHICH ARE IN VIOLATION OF ARGENTINE LAW. ALSO, IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO DO SO, SINCE WE CERTAINLY WILL HAVE TO REQUEST SIMILAR PRIVILEGES FOR FUTURE U.S. TRADE SHOWS IN ARGENTINA. EMBASSY HAS ENGAGED SERVICES OF A FREIGHT FORWARDER TO TAKE CARE OF ALL OF THE CASES AND NEEDS FUNDS. PLEASE ADVISE
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